

Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War

Korea 1950 – 1953

60th Anniversary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois and the Korean War, July 1951

The State of Illinois is commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Korean War by supplying information each month about the state's involvement in the conflict.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Korean Memorial Association, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum are sponsoring "Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War" along with media partners the Illinois Press Association and the Illinois Broadcasters Association. For more information, visit www.Illinois-History.gov or www.veterans.illinois.gov.

Illinoisans killed in action in Korea, July 1951 **By county of residence**

(Source: U.S. Department of Defense records)

Cass	PFC Donald A. Loeffler, Army, July 29.
Cook	PFC Roger E. Brent, Army, July 27. Sgt. George B. Johnson, Army, July 29. PFC Roger J. Kraft, Army, July 24. PFC Henry J. Kucharczyk, Army, July 20. PFC Carlo A. Lindstrom, Army, July 15. Sgt. Robert J. Raymond, Marines, July 26. Pvt. Frank J. Scheltens, Army, July 29. Pvt. Spero G. Spear, Army, July 26.
Franklin	PFC Marion E. Morris, Army, July 21.
Fulton	Pvt. Roscoe E. Danner, Army, July 8.
Jefferson	PFC Edward Richardson, Army, July 21.
Marion	PFC Bobby P. Branch, Army, July 14.

McLean	PFC Franklin E. Rodgers, Army, July 27.
Menard	1 st Lt. Walter R. Wood, Army, July 14.
Peoria	PFC Haldean Ross, Army, July 3.
Rock Island	PFC Raymond E. Yeargle, Army, July 12.
Stephenson	PFC Arthur L.A. Hodapp, Army, July 3.
Vermilion	Pvt. Raymond Haun, Army, July 15.
Washington	Pvt. Lloyd C. Campbell, Army, July 30.
Williamson	PFC William W. Lam, Army, July 4.
Winnebago	Cpl. Robert D. Davison, Marines, July 15. PFC Glenn F. Doty, Army, July 26.

Key events during the Korean War July 1951

July 1951 began with the commanders of the North Korean and Chinese armies agreeing to begin armistice talks with United Nations forces in Korea. Those talks officially began on July 10 at Kaesong in western Korea several miles behind the Chinese lines. The U.N. delegation was headed by Admiral C. Turner Joy.

The Communists chose Kaesong because it was still under their control, a fact that would allow them to portray the United Nations delegates as coming to their doorstep to beg for peace. The Communists intended to play out this drama for the entire world to see, and they were determined to win the “propaganda” war. While the Communists carefully screened their pool of journalists, Western journalists were allowed to cover the talks; as a result, United Nations delegates were constantly badgered by reporters. The armistice talks were to last a little more than a month before being broken off in early August. Meanwhile, no cease-fire had been agreed upon, so numerous small-scale but nonetheless bloody engagements were fought during the month.

In late July the U.S. Second Infantry Division seized the western slope of the Punchbowl, an ancient volcanic crater that had afforded North Korean troops a superb position from which to attack United Nations forces. (U.S. Marines had taken the Punchbowl’s northern ridge line during June.) Heavy rains stalled any more United Nations progress in the area by the end of July. But the two opponents continued to jockey for advantage in the Punchbowl area for weeks and months to come.

No longer would combat in Korea be characterized by massive movements up and down the Korean peninsula. The war now became a brutal affair of hilltop outposts, trenchlines, endless artillery barrages and bloody combat fought by small groups of men

over otherwise meaningless pieces of Korean real estate. The war had become an extended battle of wills – all this while the armistice talks limped forward, with no apparent progress.

Illinois Korean War Memorial

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is located in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery, the same cemetery that contains the Lincoln Tomb. Oak Ridge is the nation's second most visited burial ground behind only Arlington National Cemetery.

Dedicated on June 16, 1996, the memorial consists of a 12-foot-tall bronze bell mounted on a granite base. At the circumference of the base are four niches, each with a larger-than-life figure representing a branch of the armed services. Inscribed on the base are the 1,754 names of Illinoisans killed in Korea.

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and may be visited daily free of charge.

Korean War Veterans Oral History Project Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's Oral History Program offers "Veterans Remember," a collection of interviews with Illinois residents about their wartime experiences, at the Library's website, www.alplm.org/oral_history/home.html. The interviews concern the experiences of Illinois veterans who fought in several conflicts, including the Korean War, as well as the experiences of those on the home front. Visitors to the website can listen to or watch the interviews in their entirety. Several of the interviews have transcripts, and most have still images as well.

Website visitors will need a computer capable of playing MP3 audio files or MPG compressed video files in order to listen to the interviews. The transcripts and still images are also accessible. Volunteers conducted and edited many of the interviews and developed the transcripts that accompany them.

Korean War National Museum

The Korean War National Museum (KWNM) celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War with a new Board of Directors, new professional staff, and a renewed focus on getting a world-class museum built now, in the lifetime of the Korean War veterans. Recent news media reports outlined a proposal of the KWNM to obtain 7,000 square feet of prime space on Navy Pier in Chicago for a state-of-the-art, world-class museum where visitors could come to honor and learn about the service and sacrifices of the Americans, South Koreans and their UN Allies in the "forgotten victory." Those plans are continuing to be developed, and the KWNM hopes to be able to share some exciting news soon. Meanwhile, the Denis J. Healy Freedom Center, located at 9 South Old State Capitol Plaza in Springfield, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. The KWNM welcomes donations of photographs, documents, diaries, and artifacts of those who served in the Korean War.

To learn more about the KWNM, or to volunteer or donate, please visit www.kwnm.org or look for the Museum Facebook.

Korean War Booklet

The Illinois Korean Memorial Association, an all-volunteer organization, has published a booklet, *A Brief History of the Korean War*, copies of which have been provided free of charge to public libraries, high schools and junior high schools in Illinois. Individuals may obtain a copy by sending a \$10 check or money order to: Illinois Korean Memorial Association, P.O. Box 8554, Springfield, IL 62791.

Tax deductible donations are welcome. One hundred percent of all donations go to the book project and to the upkeep of the Illinois Korean War Memorial.

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